Country to help handloom weavers to expose their skills and talents in handloom weaving as well as market their products at 20% rebate reimbursable by the State and Central Governments.

2. The Government have also launched a National Design Collection Scheme with a view to identifying and documenting traditional handloom weavers on regional basis so that these could be further developed and marketed through Exhibition-cum-sale by selected State handloom apex societies/Handloom Development Corporations.

3. Government have also been sponsoring participation of various State handloom Apex Societies/Corporations in Trade Fairs. Besides, Government have sponsored a large number of handloom weavers for participation in Craft Melas such as at Surajkund (Haryana), Shilpgram (Udaipur) and at Agra.

4. The Government have instituted a scheme for National Awards and merit Certificates, given by the President of India every year, to renowned handloom weavers in recognition of their outstanding contribution towards preservation/promotion and development of handloom industry in the Country and also with a view to encouraging the handloom weavers to further promote this industry.

Cultivation of cotton crop in Madhya Pradesh

2809. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is facing acute shortage of cotton and cotton yearn at present;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof:

(c) whether Government . have conducted any survey in madhya Pradesh to promote the cultivation of the commercial crop of cotton therein; and

(d) if so, what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b): The Cotton Advisory Board has estimated the availability of cotton during the current cotton season 1991-92 at 138.64 lakh bales (inclusive of Opening Stock) against the availability of 150.04 lakh bales (inclusive of Opening Stock) during the cotton season 1990-91. The production of cotton yearn during the period April, 1991 January. 1992 has been estimated at 1212 million Kgs. against the production of 1218 million Kgs. during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) and (d) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) is being implemented in 40 selected districts of 11 cotton growing States including Madhya Pradesh. The objective of the Scheme is to improve the production and productivity of cotton.

Production of Chanderi Sarees in Madhya Pradesh

2810. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) Whether Governments are aware that world famous Chanderi Sarees are manufactured by weavers in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite having the export potential and domestic demands, manufacture of Chanderi Sarees on large scale are not being promoted at the Government level in the State; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take so that production of Chanderi Sarees gets a boost on large scale in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Governments at the Centre and the State, both are. aware of the potential of Chanderi Sarees and have taken a number of steps to give a boost to this industry.

The production of Chanderi sarees has increased from Rs. 45 lakhs in 1980 to about Rs. 12 crores in the current year. The number of looms producing Chanderi sarees has increased from 929 in 1980 to 2700 now.

(a) With a view to give a boost to the